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your money will be promptly reanded?



LEARN MUSIC WORLD'S EASIEST It may seem strange to imagine that there's You start right in playing real little tunes,

> find yourself entertaining your friends-play-ing at parties-and having the best times you ever had:

> > Easy, Fascinating

Gradually you master more and more difficult

ones until-sooner than you expected-you

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# PICTURE PLAY

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Monthly publication issued by Street & Smith Publications, Inc., 79-89 Seventh Avenue, New York, N. Y. George C. Smith, Jr., President; Ormand V. Gould, Vice President and Treasurer; Arternas Holmes, Vice President and Secretary-Copyright, 1934, by Street & Smith Publications, Inc., New York, Copyright, 1934, by Street & Smith Publications, Inc., New York, Copyright, 1934, by Street & Smith Publications, Inc., Once Britain, Entered as Second-class Matter, March 6, 1916, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Subscriptions to Cuba, Dom, Republic, Haitl, Spain, Central and South American Countries except The Guianas and British Honduras, \$1.25 per year. To Canada, \$1.20 per year. To all other Foreign Countries, Including The Guianas and British Honduras, \$1.70 per year.

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STREET & SMITH PUBLICATIONS, INC., 79 7th AVE., NEW YORK, N. Y.

# CLARK GABLE

Did you know that he proved himself the most popular star ever to come from Hollywood on a visit to New York? Why? Instead of shrinking from crowds and pleading for seclusion, he went out of his way to acknowledge and thank the public for making possible his success. What a man!

# EVELYN BRENT

Do you often wonder about her? Wonder what has become of the brilliant leading woman of "Underworld," "Interference," "The Last Command," and a score of other notable pictures? She has been touring in vaudeville for lo! these many, many months. Why? Because Hollywood hasn't asked her to do anything on the screen. Do you understand that?

# JOAN CRAWFORD

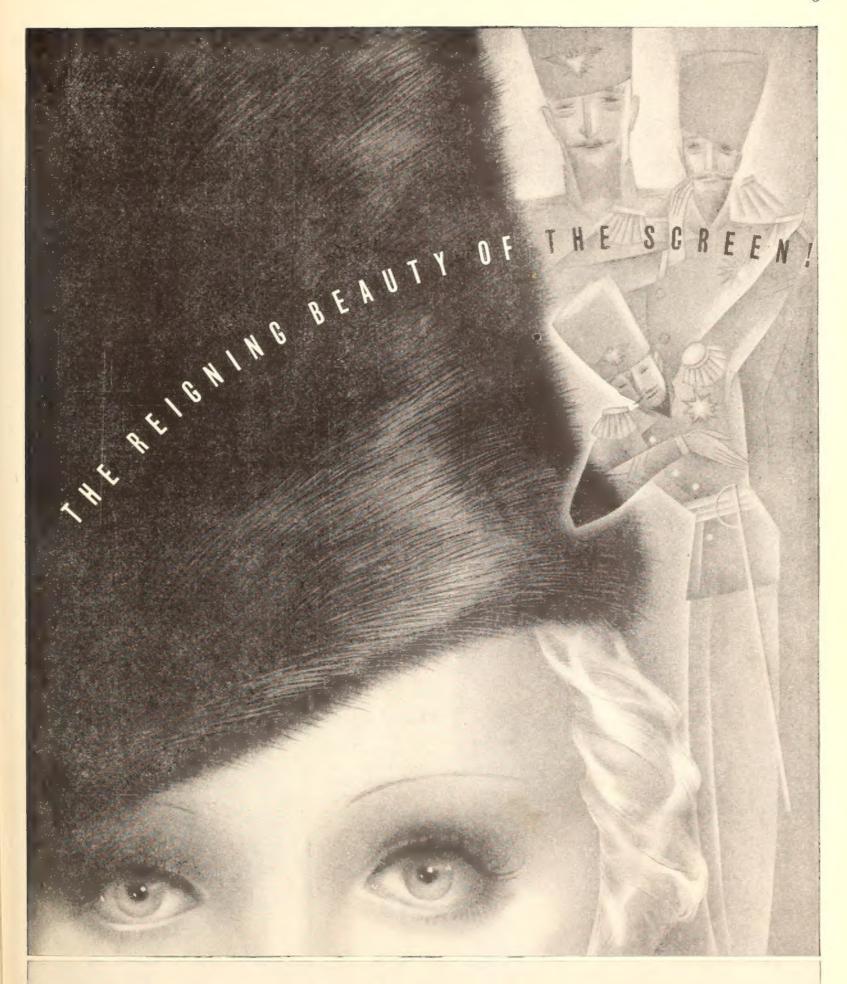
There can't be too many articles about her, or too many interviews. Her popularity grows and grows, her admirers becoming more vehement in defending her against criticism, her detractors losing ground daily. It looks as if the whole world will become Crawford-conscious in a very short time.

# JUNE PICTURE PLAY

All these players and many more will be subjects of illuminating stories next month. For example, Judith Field will tell you all about the Clark Gable she met in New York; Dorothy Herzog will account for Evelyn Brent's absence from the screen and relate amazing facts about her. Malcolm H. Oettinger, who has interviewed Joan Crawford at various times in her rapid ascent to fame, will describe her as he finds her to-day.

Next month's Picture
Play will be up to the
minute, packed to the
brim with just what

want to know.



# MARLENE DIETRICH in "THE SCARLET EMPRESS"



Directed by Josef von Sternberg

A PARAMOUNT PICTURE



# IS MAE

A sensation a year ago, Mae West's recent picture failed to show that she could do more than repeat herself. Is she, then, just a one-rôle star, a flash in the pan?

not the men in your life that count, dearie. It's the life in your men."

As a result of "I'm No Angel," however, those of us who have seen other cyclonic successes in pictures began to wonder. Is Mae West just a flash in the pan, or is she really a legitimate actress?

If "It Ain't No Sin" isn't far superior to her last effort, I, for one, believe Mae will suffer the fate that many before her have suffered. She will find herself close to the funereal ranks of the ex-stars.

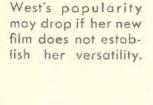
I agree with any one who claims Mae West is original. However, I consider her originality to be "type originality." Her drawl, her swagger, her audacious bandying of the conventions, these are part of her type, the type representative of the woman of experience who knows her seams as well as her smooth velvets. I have seen type after type crash the spotlight only to lose out because he or she had nothing more to offer than one characterization and one line of talk.

Mae is clever—very clever. No woman who wasn't clever could have startled and won Broadway as Mae West did. No woman could have given such a distinctive performance in a small part as Mae did in "Night After Night," without being clever. But is Mae clever enough to know where cleverness ends and discretion begins?

She has astounding faith in her own faith in herself. This was demonstrated by an incident that has come to my attention.

Mae in gala attire with Jim Timony, her business manager, adviser, philosopher, and pal.

Photo by Wide World



Speaking of curves,

the curve of Mae

THE cyclonic rise of Mae West is now screen history. But to what does Mae owe her astonishing success? She isn't youthfully youthful. She isn't beautifully beautiful.

Then what? Well, she is different, She is—at least, she was—something new on the screen. She dared to depict sex with nonchalant boldness. She dared to be frank with the men in her pictures.

As I write this, Mae is beginning work on her third starring picture, "It Ain't No Sin," from her own story. Her first starring picture, "She Done Him Wrong," was adapted from her hit play, "Diamond Lil." Her second, "I'm No Angel," was also her own story.

Mae had a ready-made audience all over the country awaiting her second picture. But it was a disappointment. Two wisecracks saved it from being a stencil of the first: "Beulah, peel me a grape," and "It's



# WEST A FIZZLE?

# By Dorothy Herzog

Among the thousands of letters Mae receives from admirers, one came from a woman who asked the star how she could hold her husband. Mae answered the letter. A few weeks later a second one reached her. "I did as you told me," the woman said, "and my husband socked me in the eye!"

There is a moral in this little story. I wonder if Mae perceived it. I think Mae West will be just another flash in the pan if she continues to write her own stories, and I join those who contend she will not survive the four-year optional contract by which, in addition to her salary, she receives a percentage

of the profits on her films.

I've a notion that Mae is fully aware that she is in a critical position. That she doesn't mingle extensively in Hollywood proves nothing. She was never a social butterfly in her halcyon stage days in New York. Society in that city sought her. It was considered smart to have the risqué lioness of the footlights at one's party. Mae went to some parties, not to many.

She had other things on her mind, even then, particularly, the writing bee. She wrote several books that were published. She has just finished another novel. She had play ideas she wanted

to work out.

Some people are of the opinion that Miss West has assistance in her writings. Mae herself admitted as much in a Picture Play interview. Whether she has help or not is, in my opinion, unimportant. Her ideas are her own, and she has the stamina to stay with them until they have been worked out to her satisfaction.

One success, however, doesn't insure another. It merely helps. Miss West

knows this. Out of four of her stage plays, she had two successes. An actress's career isn't seriously jeopardized by a play failure. The screen is something else again, and Mae is very nervous about herself and her work. I'd like to take you back scene to see Mae in working harness and show you what I mean.

On the set, when she isn't before the camera, she sits in her chair, tapping one foot on the floor and humming to herself. In her eyes is a far-off look. That look usually bodes something. It finds voice when Mae says to her director, "I've been thinking—" Then she's off, explaining what she has been thinking. It may be



Photo by Wide World

Mae West is a clever woman. But is she clever enough to stop writing her own stories and giving her cast scant opportunities?

that she has a sudden doubt whether a scene is as she hopes it should be; whether her hair is arranged as becomingly as it could be; whether her costume fits to perfection.

A director of a West picture not only directs the picture; he has to spare the time to explain why she is wrong in thinking as she does, or else simply agree she is right and change matters to her current approval.

Mae isn't temperamental in the boisterous sense of the word. Given a logical reason that disputes any of her ideas, she'll usually agree with it and toss her own ideas Continued on page 52

# TOO MUCH ROPE William H. McKegg

Working feverishly to be the little French girl from Paree, Fifi Dorsay oo-la-laed herself out of favor.





David Rollins first appealed to the fans by looking boyish, and then lost out by going too—too coy for words.

The line that papa's little pet must be tucked in bed at nine o'clock was overdone and it boomeranged back on Anita Page.

'aughty, naughty, naughty—
'as Tallulah Bankhead's

yood paid more atat than her acting.

When a player spins too long a personality line he gets tripped up in it, often strangling his career. Here are some outstanding examples of players who overworked their imaginary personalities.

IVE a fool too much rope and he'll hang himself. So goes the old saying.

Not wishing to be tactless, I'll substitute "star" for "fool." For it is like this: Most players create a fanciful personality of themselves. They hide behind this imaginary being, but sooner or later reveal their true selves to the fans by playing with too much

You've heard that Garbo is a recluse. She makes a picture, then instantly goes back into her hermitlike existence. The One and Only has impressed this idea on the fans so strongly that it seems fool-proof. Yet——

Garbo has as many friends as she desires. She goes where she wants to. Lately she has made a grave mistake. Instead of hiding behind her hermit personality she has permitted herself to be seen. Worst of all, not to such good advantage.

This winter she attended concerts and dance offerings. When Garbo arrived in her limousine a thrill was expected.

Instead of a dazzling creature, out stepped a strange person dressed in a leather jacket, a woolen skirt, ankle socks, and sandals. A somewhat inappropriate ensemble for a swell

opening.

One fan said to me, "I recognized Garbo, though none of the others seemed to. While they were rushing after other stars, I went up to her and asked if she'd autograph my book. She partly smiled, shook her head, and dashed into the theater.

Continued on page 58

Tom Brown publicized himself as a combina-

tion Don Juan and stripling Henry VIII. Now he's sworn never to mention a girl's name.

# e FANS



ALICE FAYE can take her place among the real beauties of Hollywood though she is more eager to make a place for herself among the girls that mean something on the screen. Famous as a blues singer, she will make her debut in Fox's production of George White's "Scandals."

DOROTHY DELL is another beauty who is entering the Holly wood cavalcade. Known chiefly for her singing in the "Follies," she faced the camera and was transformed into a dramatic actress! So dramatic, indeed, that she was given the lead in "The Man Who Broke His Heart"





Plant by Otto Dynr

WARNER BAXTER LESLIE HOWARD Manta by Privat & Bashrack

RALPH BELLAMY
ROBERT MONTCOMERY

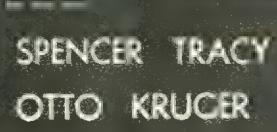
Photo by Russell Mail



The ART of ACTINC



JOHN BOLES CLIVE BROOK





SCARRIED



THERE'S no doubthat Pert Kelton had clicked and is on the screen to stay. Even since "Bed of Roses she has been getting better and better perter and pepping —and prettier, a you can see from this new photograph. You will so the gal herself be fore long in "Sing and Like It."

Ph. t. v. Frnes A. Burhto





# HOW TO PHONE A STAR

The telephonies give

Clark Gable Grade-A

rating-\$5.00. Myrna

Loy's number goes for

\$2.50 and Bing Crosby's

is quoted at \$3.50.

What's it worth to call up Jean Harrow sometime? Or would you rather phone Mary Pickford and Constance Bennett both for the price of a Harlow call? If you're ever in Hollywood, the strangest racket in the country will fix it up for you.

# By Hal Hall

Till lel is a stown of coord that be assess man, unlisted telegibles to proportion to the population as does Hollywood. Lake wise, and locable, go dispute, there is no town in the world where a listed tele home in, in ers are so easy to get

If you are in New York and we it to get the unlisted phone runder of your sest their light try to get it? But it you are in Hollywood and think it would be grand to call up Clark Gable, all you need is money, and not such a lot of that.

The arswer is the Hollywood telephones

Cheago has its dry cleaning tacketeers. New York its poultry clusters, but a brinch or lads in Hollywood, long before the mobsters of the big et es ever hit the Leadlines, had organized the nest unique racket in the world. This group compaises the telephonies. They are not spectacular in the roperations. The never lateak into print. But for ears they have earned a goodly server money, regardless of depressions, stock market slumps, or what have our

A telephory's a man or woman who by one cans or another has learned the proate prone in beis of the stars and overs there for side to enrious tour sts, love sin tter ona lens, brother likes.

visiting for on, main accessileamen, rewap per cortors, or to accessive who wants a star's telephone number, ad has the no sy to pay for it

There is, jeth is, no other tewn in the world where such is time racket could be developed into so he rative a business. Every star has a confider to be more in the telephone number be listed in the telephone detectory is to admit that on are absolutely nothing in the picture business. The timest all meins the picture business. The timest all meins the picture people have no poines, but they all have

The business of the telephones developed from the same actsou that caused the stars to have unlisted telephone anumbers, that is, laundreds of people will to call their on the telephone. It started years ago when picture players arist occame famous and the first stories of their big salaries appeared in the newspapers. Then any valuebe of salesmen descended upon these uniformate people by way of the telephone. In self-defense they obtained part are numbers, and the privilege of undisturbed sleep.

There is telephories stepped into the breach. At first their operations were largel as falor to average ked newspaper near who had to get state ments from stars whise names had come before the public through the divorce come its or some other sensational route. Some bright lad saw the opportunity of a king case more, and a new racket was started.

Now ever the clarified wood and hos Angeles is able to tip on a guest where how he is cold in the number of tean Harlow, George Raft, color Mae West, who my tell everybody to "come up sometime" and almost tears the toler one transconnection when a laff inebriated manicalls up in the middle in their glints tell here is tranks it's a great idea, and won't should have the address.

The telepoint relative a crious or e with this group. They go about it in a bit messlike matric, with cold not less and checking systems that would amaze you. Then, business would not last if they were not accurate. A few wrong runbers, can be then, in lathey would be thrown, into by the very people who now assist that







Since the stars frequently change their numbers be cause of this racket, they are kept on the jump to keep abreast of the changes. How they do it is a mystery many a star would like to solve. But get the numbers they do.

The price list of the stars not bers is something to marvel it. They are graded much like oranges, lemons, or potatoes. The following list obtained by the writer from a man who has been in the telephony business for

years gives you an idea of the popularity of some of the players, so far as tourists in leaders men are concerned.

Heading the list we and that grand old trouper. Mane Dress ler, right up from with the sensious-boking Jean Harlaw, to hip wagging Mae West, the retiring Garbo, and that quigous night-gown wearer. Jenicite MacDonald

Among the men stars, George Raft and Clark Gable are in the grade- Volass, closely followed by Franchot Tone and Bing Crosby.

The women stars' telephone price list tollows:

The men's list is neaded by these stars:

George R. L	, , ti l	, табра .	5511	1 11 -	~3411
Clith Crable			5.00		3.00
Trance t Lord			3 3()		2.00
Di L Cross		*	3.50		p. (124)
eshe H wat I	,	*	2.00		1 0 1
Dick P			2.00		] (h,
William Lieuts			2.00		100
1 21 12 13 1, 5	h		2 (3-)		1.00

It is impossible for the stars to keep their telephone numbers a secret, though not one is listed in the phone directory. A group of men have developed a racket of ferreting out private numbers and selling them. Here are some of the prices:

Jean Harlow, Mae West,		
and Garbo	\$5 00	each
Clara Bow and Claudette		
Colbert	1.50	each
George Raft and Clark		
Gable	5.00	each
John Boles and Wallace		
Beery	2.00	each

A lot of the players' numbers go for a dollar a throw. Gary Cooper's has recently gone on the bargain list the test of the modal ; a doll a rethrow. Sales for get them dirt cheap if they take a figures of them.

You see, explained one of the telephone, two grace ten according to demand. The profit in poor so a fill to care A a rule of sork about like that But in the form on the arcticless a put for an about a rule is a rule of the care careless a put for the expect of the order of the arter for the arte

Trines de lot what the all a be in the rick to Be of the lepto step to use I to get a lot for cople like Clair Box and

the that hadden gold And hill imposed at the prices we've been allow a get at a war and older many for a benter allow as just being a llup Cark Core of Cara Coper.

"The Coper gumb is one or the bogate let be Bing Crosby is a new largetest. So is this fell where Rot has been algurine maker for not long the bings on a late of his killer of business in Lee Macy right after be thur of the second Nexus and Harlow jane is approximately a "We get our first process room the usuors but our

"We get our first prices rounthy isitors but our loggest trade is with the bis as losses and a lesinent who want to get next to the stars to sell them a nething

from sewe has a notation of the sewe has a notation of the sewe has a sewe had been several to the sewere had been several to the sewere

The tachest and the petate with the second is Wilking a Helias a office and

Jean Har' v		1	Leneral r	15	851/1	1	( " ;	23 11
Mac West		4.1	1.4				4	
Marie Dressler, .		- **	1.6		5 11	1	*	3.00
Greta (rabo)	+ 1		*		5-11			300
Jeanette MacDard	1 .				5 (1.)		1	300
Joan Crawford				,	2.50			1.50
Alice White			•		7.50		•	1.50
Myrna Ley				h h	2.50			1.50
Const nee Bennett					2.50	4.5		1.50
Loretta Your 2			5.4		2.5()			1.76
Mary Picktor L.					2.50			1.50
Lihan Harvey		, "			1.50			10,
Claudette Cohert		+			151			1 Cit
Clara B. w .		4		*	1 ~ 1			1 00
Dolores de, Ra			4	*	1.5.1			1.00
Sheila Terry			4.1		1.50		*	1 (()

Most of the other established players, and the entire flock of new comers, may be telephoned for \$1.00 per head. Salesmen get the numbers cheaper in bulk, depending upon low many the take

The telephonies will sell you Lilian Harvey's private phone number for only \$1.50. Jeanette MacDonald's gets top rating, \$5.00, and Dick Powell's goes for only \$2.00.







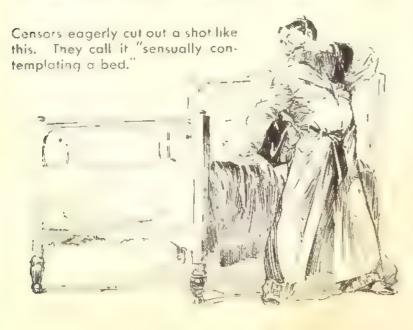
# IS the SCREEN too



Widespread protest against movie morals causes producers to think of cleaning up from within the industry. But what is romance and what is "sex," they want to know.

Those in the second creates has been the time and of the second creates has been the content of the second creates and the second creates and second creates has been the second creates and second creates

Pero as were are if wought up over sexupe the calculate allow of the Blue Ligle (dl.) quality would be discussed themselves working out a general alm coast and architective usidering a moral horsecoating for the sucentarion within a leaders pass from word that it would be an excellent idea for Holl would to but sown the ring up latore someboly discussed in the calculate prefer to the complaints lable in register but W. Jungton.



A nove execute is unded a new rote in Hollywood when he is a lith a he saw no reason why films should not be as clean as radic. Religious leaders, social workers, and parent teacher groups had been saying this tor a long time, and have been telling it to their congressment in no marking words. At the same time they advocated bose itting theaters showing films they considered harmful. Something had to be done

Studios set about reconsilering some of the hotter films and stories on hand, coording to the trade journals. Some could be soft-pelaled, others might have to be slicked. It is believed that if a clean screen is presented by early summer, legislative consorship will be avoided and at the same time local and state seissoring will be given a telling blow. The idea is to launder the films at home in Hollywood before they reach the public, and there will be no need of offeral inspection.

This worthy move got a ball start, however, when three films were banned by censor boards in the first in the of XRA. "Diminged Lives" and "Flysia." independent productions, got the block marks, while "Blood Money" was bouned in Maryland, though later remstated. The first two are independent productions, "Llysia" portraying life in a mudist colony. How the major productions can go one way and the independents another without all getting in dutch is the question.

Producers are suddenly anxious to clean up, so they say. In the past such announcements have often brought forth only an impractical "moral co le" and another series of loose-lady films or something of that sort. We shall see.

The trouble is they're running around in circles trying to decide where a nice romance ends and a sexy film begins. Nobody seems to know just where the merely risqué crosses over into dirt or vulgarity. Are Mae West's come on up gals too sexy, plain vulgar, or just

nuldle , al 'manor ously shad ? When is a fleopant but or hun or just that?

SEXY?

Fairs at cannot make up the rinings on these points and their letters show they do not agree need not feel had about it. A psychologist on a studio pay roll is quoted by Variety is saving that every romantic picture is basic ally a sex picture A studio head

gets more to the point in speaking a secon dirt: "A film les to be clean in essence. Any one can laugh at a limy story, but it takes brains to make their laugh at a clean one "Applying this to films of young love, make ng hot-cha pictures is easy, but it takes brains to turn

but a successful nice romance.
Still, this leaves "clean in essence" up it the air. The New York State board or censors last year out out thirtyaght for cent of the material in pictures resewed, according to Nation. Before that the Hays office had bassed up in the story and Thin. And still the howl is abroad in the land that Jictures are not clean. It seems hat the speradic deletions made by the censors fail to hange the "essence" of the films after all.

Once a rim is completed, perhaps it cannot be changed. For instance in "Cock of the Air" s are time back the cene was or letted out in which Rowwas "sensually contemplating the best." Granted it was Roccowlo went oo far in his contemplations, not the cersors, the deleion had butle to do with the entire alm. It was little more than quibbling with the direct on of the picture. And good he vens, what of Garbo hugging the bedpost and pillow in "Queen Christina" on leaving the inn? It's ill in the way it's done. I suppose, or the mood of the

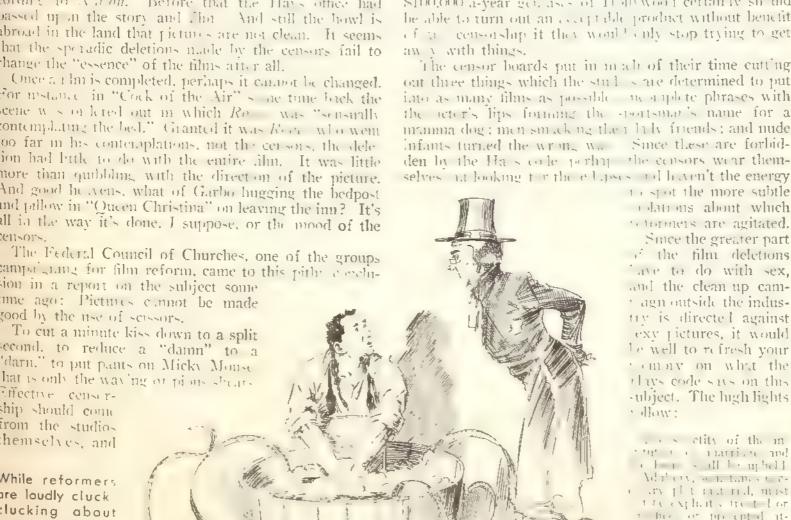
The Federal Council of Churches, one of the groups campa game for film reform, came to this pith conclu-

sion in a report on the subject some ime ago: Pictures connot be made good by the use of sessors.

To cut a minute kiss down to a split

hat is only the waying or pious shears Effective censorship should come from the studios hemselves, and

While reformers are loudly cluck lucking about naughty films, Holywood talks of peating them to it by doing some ome laundering.



By James

Roy Fuller

Illustrated by H. Glesen

A new ruling on publicity photos sends screen cuties home for more clothes before the camera clicks.

then you have a whole— . A o'cso re-picture, instead of a choppy one. If has been done onen and the productions act both public calculated who lesale patronage. Look at "Little Womer," "State Faor," and "Similia" Through."

When a book is banned, the publishers are not surprised. Nobody has to tell then a hisk is smutty, they knes in all the time. Publishers are their own censors. and rarely is a book of part one condemned \$100,000 a-year go, ascs of Hollswood certainly should be able to turn out an exceptable product without benefit of a censorship it they would only stop trying to get

The censor boards put in much of their time cutting out three things which the studys are determined to put into as many films as possible the applete phrases with the actor's lips forming the sportsman's name for a mranma dog; men smacking their lifty friends; and nude infants turned the wrong was Since these are forbidden by the Ha scoole perhaps the consors wear them-

> to spot the more subtle - lations about which retormers are agitated.

Since the greater part of the film deletions have to do with sex, and the clean up camr agn outside the industry is directed against exy pictures, it would Le well to refresh your commy on what the clays code says on this subject. The high lights · ollow:

. . s ctity of the in-Add civ. son tames to carry floring traditional, must or pre-ent-d atective s

See a st pa for evald to be arred and win reserved to the plot Corn a don page 53

Is Mae West a Fizzle?

tions directly

aw, y for the time being. Her find and the auxieties it causes her makes her a "mentally temperamental" per son. She is constantly probing and turning things over, worrying and groping for satisfactory answers, continually discussing such thoughts or such fragments of thoughts with those around her

She's superstitious, too, which is often another acute phase of nervouscess. It she has to make a change of costume, she won't change in the fortable dressing room prepared for acr. She walks all the way to her own dressing from and makes a complete change, including lingurie. Her colored mail it ust have at least one scene in each other pictures. It was the same with Mae's monkey. That monkey had to be in "I'm No Angel." Mae was as nervous as a kitten until she knew for certain the critter would

be worked into the picture

Of course, many people are superstitious, but a flock of superstitions that become a positive burden rest heavily on one's nervous system livery one concerned with "I'm No Angel" was regretful when Mae's monkey died just as the picture was finished, but they all wondered what would have happened hial the monkey died before it was completed. As it was, Mae was so grief-stricken over the little fellow's death that she missed the first preview of the picture, an unheard of remissness with her.

Mae is rarely alone on the set Usually her manager, Jim Timony, and her style adviser, Boris Petroff, are with her. Timony dates back to the old days when Mae was prancing in burlesque. Petroff is a more recent acquisition. He used to be a stage director with Paramount theaters. Mae wanted him with her as adviser. He is with her Paramount pass his salary. Petroff is usually

present when Mae is busy with costume or beauty engagements.

But even then Mae has dubious moments. I know, for instance, that in "I'm No Angel," she once appeared on the set almost an hour late because she had not liked the way her hair had been set. Arriving on the set, she asked Director Wesley Ruggles Low she looked. Ruggles viewed her critically and answered she looked O. K.

Mae was satisfied. Work began. She did four scenes or more. Then, while waiting for the cameras to be set up for another shot, she began to experiment with her hair. She brushed it back and off one ear and the effect pleased her. She told Ruggles she meant to wear her hair like that in the next shot.

This, however, would not do. Ruggles explained why it wouldn't do. Her hair in that style wouldn't match up with the scenes already taken. Mae tapped her foot on the floor restlessly and hummed. Finally she nodded. Very well, she could see why she should keep her hair as it was. And she did. It is this sort of thing that makes la West a "mentally temperamental" person.

I met Director Ruggles after the preview of "I'm No Angel" and asked him how he liked directing Mae West

"She's an interesting person," he replied

Does she strike you as capable of writing all these stories she is credited with writing?" I asked. Sometimes when a question is snapped at a person, taking him off-guard, you get an interesting answer.

"I can tell you this," Ruggles returned without hesitation. "Several occasions arose on the set when I asked Mae to give me new lines for such and such a situation. She

thought it over and came back with the lines."

Mae enjoyed working with Ruggles. She expressed her appreciation of him publicly when "I'm No Angel" of ened in Hollywood. She didn't enjoy working with Lowell Sherman, who directed "She Done Him Wrong," and she said as much. But that is Mae. Those she likes, she likes. Those she doesn't -well, she doesn't, that's all.

But a Mae West director, whether he be Lowell Sherman or Wesley Ruggles—and both are important megaphone figures—cannot be held entirely responsible for a Mac West picture. Not so long as she writes her own stories.

And there, to me, is the crisis that confronts. Mae writing her own stories. Ruth Chatterton had an \$8,000-a-week contract with Warners that permitted her to select her own stories. Ruth Chatterton is no longer with Warners, nor is she the star she was. She has to make a come back before she regains her lost prestige.

There is a degree of similarity between Ruth and Mae. Ruth seldom gave any of the supporting players in her pictures a chance to act. An audience saw more of the back of their heads and their profiles than their full face. Add to this the fact that Ruth's stories were pretty spineless affairs and it is obvious why people wearied of her films.

Mac has the same tendency, insofar as her supporting cast is concerned. A splendid scene is wrecked when the camera cuts from one player to a close-up of the star before that player has actually finished his scene. We may want to see the star, but we don't want to see her to the detriment of the story. If this occurs too often in a film, it becomes a monotony and a bore to the most lenient of audiences.

Continued on page 62]

### . -

the moment, but do you think I can find her? Do you think she ever sends a telegram, keeps an appointment, or stays put? Mercurial, that's what she is. But I'll track down old Mona Lisa Pitts if you will only give me time. Do you know any unpleasant questions you would like to have me ask her? And do you think we wouldn't both drown them out with leighter if any one could think of a way of leight histogreeable to the one and only Z su?

Broadway Looks West.—The theater secson is limping a bit and even the highly successful players are ooking hopefully toward Hollywood Dorothy Stickney is the most im-

# They Say in New York--

portant to go as yet. She will play a slavey in Paramount's "Murder at the Vanities"

If I were to tell you what Broadway in general thinks of Miss Stickney, both as an actress and as a person, you would pigeouhole me as a hopeless gusher. So with great restraint I will merely report that she is the only actress considered potentially as great as Helen Hayes. She is far from strong and has been able to act only for a brief period each season. But her work is always memorable.

Eddie Craven, Frank Craven's bethew who has made a big hit in "Sailor Beware," is also going West for Paramount. When the play

opened his uncle wired him, "Remember one part does not make an actor". So, since it looked as if "Sailor Bewaie" might run forever, he is leaving the cast to make some pictures, hoping to prove to uncle that he is an actor.

Dressing-room Talk.—Backstage in Broadway theaters there is great remnuscing about Jean Fullarton who has made such a litt in Warner pictures as Jean Muir. She was one of those girls who was bound to rise. She used to go to the same play night after night, memorizing the leading lady's lines. Then she would go to the player and apply for a job of used. Usually she got it.

as it she

# They Say in New York—-

When she finally landed a part in "Life Begins," she went at her work with the most intent earnestness. She arrived at the theater early, wouldn't let the stage hands make the beds or put the props around because working in the set helped her to get into the mood of the play.

If you saw Hepburn in "Morning Glory" you saw a fair transcription of the Muir determination. Talkative, earnest, rather a pest with all her theories about how stage director, playwright, and every one else should do his work. But she was so serious about it no one was annoyed with her for long.

Good-will Ambassador.—Fox has borrowed Madeleine Carroll from England, and if you saw her in "I Was a Spy" I need say nothing about her great charm. She has that fresh, candid loveliness that is so often attributed to English women and so rarely encountered. Fox threw a big cocktail party in her honor before she left for Hollywood. Ordinarily at these affairs old friends get together and pay no attention to the guest of honor. But this time we were all quite hushed and dazzled,

Fashion Note.-Watch the feet of Paramount stars in future pictures. Travis Banton, their fashion arbiter, has been in serious conference with Zegorav, the noted shoe

designer, and foot appeal is about to be made a feature of their pictures. Admire the beautiful sandals as you will, but you may as well know the worst now. Seventy-five dollars might get you a pair of his shoes, if he wasn't too busy to bother. More likely, though, he would be in the midst of collecting a few thousand just for telling some shoe manufacturer what to make.

Lilyan, the Lucky Piece.-Just one big feature is being filmed in New York and what player do you suppose has been brought from Hollywood to play in it? Lilyan Tashman, of course. She is every director's bid for success in trying something different. The film is "Frankie and Johnny," based on the old song and placed in the gold-rush period. Helen Morgan and Chester Morris play the title rôles, and Lilyan is Nellie Bly, that wicked siren who stole the heroine's man.

The lines Lilyan has to speak are so vicious that she has decided to dress to look like a helpless innocent. The hero sees only her angelic getup, never her gila-monster disposition.

As usual, Lilyan arrived and was swept into a whirlpool of activities. Eddie Lowe, who was with her, was rehearsing a personal-appearance sketch and doing radio work. While she selected clothes from her own wardrobe for Eddie's leading lady to wear in the sketch, and tried to keep his nerves from snapping just before he went on the radio, she had stage producers to the right of her, costumers to the left of her, photographers waiting for her, and friends all

She seemed very tired. Her voice was about gone. But even now she is so grateful to the public who have supported her so lavishly that she said she would go to the hockey game and throw out the puck, she would go to this first night and that celebrity night, she would run over to the shop to see the dresses that so-and-so who used to know her when had designed. And believe it or not, she was toying with the idea of finding time to go to the voice coach who has worked over every one from Ina Claire and Helen Hayes to Hepburn. As if that voice hadn't done very well.

MacKenna, the Clothes Critic.-Innumerable family explosions must have taken place at the breakfast table when the newspapers reported that Kay Francis was getting a divorce because Kenneth MacKenna didn't like her clothes. When next a man doesn't like your hat, just curl your lips with a fine scorn and say 'MacKenna." Which implies that these men don't know anything about smart clothes and it's foolish to try to please them.

# Continued from page 39

be so treated that these scenes do not stimulate the lower and baser element. Seduction should never be more than

suggested, and only when essential to the plot . . . should never be the proper subject for comedy.

White slavery should never be treated. The treatment of low, disgusting, un-pleasant though not necessarily evil subjects, should be subject always to the dictates of good taste and regard for the sensibilities of the audience.

Obscenity is forbidden in word, gesture,

reference, song, joke, or by suggestion.

After the reports quoted in this article, I wondered how the Hays office felt about it all. A spokesman for the office didn't feel one way or the other about it. The Hays moral code had been handed down several years ago, and the code, there she stands. At the time there was no thought of revising the code, no need

However, J. J. McCarthy is censoring all advertising art for the Hays office. Under the new edict. all drawings and photos must pass under his eye before being offered the newspapers and magazines. Mr. McCarthy started off by condemning a batch of screen beauties in underwear. A photograph of Mae West

# Is the Screen too Sexy?

was vetoed on the ground that her dress was cut too low. In his first week on the job, Mr. McCarthy rejected about half the publicity stills under the edict against leg art.

Eddie Cantor and Marie Dressler represent the players on the Code Authority under the NRA. scare created by the appointment of Doctor A. Lawrence Lowell, president emeritus of Harvard, to head the board was eased when he declined. Doctor Lowell has long been known as a campaigner against off-color and gangster films, which he considers harmful to young people. What he might have done in an official position was indeed a question.

Mr. Cantor, in accepting the appointment, was quoted as saying he believed "there should be a clean-up of dirty films." Not a very thunder-

ous statement, that,

This country loves a crusade of some kind. That is, a comparative handful of people are chronic crusaders. There was the anti-tobacco crusade a generation ago. Cigarettes were "coffin nails." There was the dry crusade and all the schools were decorated with maps of drunkards'

innards, with a liver all blue instead of the fresh pink tint of the livers of us teetotalers. It is conceivable that there might be a film crusade, and every social evil be laid to Hollywood's doors, now that reformers need a new racket.

There should be a happy medium for screen morals and it is up to Hollywood itself to find it. Silly moral codes designed to preserve the innocence of boarding-school girls will do no good. That only befogs the issue, and challenges the producers to get around it somehow-which is what they have been doing all along, else why the clamor against shady films? And once a film is made, picky censorship can't change its general tone.

Now that a number of organizations, not to mention free-lance reformers, are pointing stern fingers at Hollywood for turning out so much that they label "dirty" and "tawdry sex," the movie moguls were at this writing singing "who's afraid of the big bad censors" just a little skittishly, wondering just what is dirt. Mean-while, they were dusting off stories like "David Harum" until the huffing and puffing quiets down.





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# How to Phone a Star

Continued from page 29

a secretary in town. He stays out at his ranch most of the time. It's easy to get the number of the office, but you have to tell the secretary what you want. The secretary then calls Will on a private phone that is not connected outside. If he wants to talk to you he calls you up. What chance has a guy got?

Business firms watch the gossip columns of the newspapers. When they see that a star is expecting a blessed event, they go after the telephonies and then after the star with every sort of baby equipment.

The same way with romances and boosts in salaries. The rumor that a star is to get a raise will boom the business of the telephonies because the real-estate, stock, bond, automobile, and jewelry salesmen start on the trail of the extra dollars. It causes annoyance for the star, but it is a harvest for the most unique racketeers in the world, the telephonies.

# Information, Please

Continued from page 8

former Marcelite Dobbs, a nonprofessional. The studios are not open to visitors.

ALICE NICKEL.—Billy Barty is the eightyear-old youngster in the Mickey McGuire comedies.

FRANK FERRERA.—As far as I know, Catherine Dale Owen is still appearing on the London stage. She comes from Louis-ville, Kentucky, and is just thirty. Her last screen appearance was in 1931 in "Defenders of the Law.'

ART.—Consult studio addresses on back page. John McCormack is now on the radio and may be reached in care of Station WJZ, New York City. Rudy Vallée is making "George White's Scandals" for Fox at Beverly Hills. For a photo of Vilma Banky, try Universal Studio.

Tom and Hal.—Write to Hoot Gibson in care of Allied Pictures, Pathé Studio, Culver City; Jackie Coogan, Talisman Productions, Hollywood; Lillian Roth, Eastern Service Studios, 2826 Decatur Avenue, Bronx, New York; William S. Hart, Newhall, California.

JAMES STYLES.—One of the first serials was "The Million Dollar Mystery," re-leased about 1912 by the Thannhouser Film Company. I fail to find any record of "Trapped in Tijuana."

Lulu.—Shirley Grey has the principal rôle opposite Ralph Bellamy in "Murder at Rexford Arms." Shirley was born in Naugatuck, Connecticut, and celebrates her birthday on April 3rd. She is five feet six, weighs 118, and has blond hair and bluish-gray eyes. Bebe Daniels's next is with Lyle Talbot, in "Registered Nurse."

MARIE.—Heather Angel hails from England, where she was born on February 9, 1909; five feet two, weighs 105, has dark-brown hair and eyes. Her next is "Mur-der in Trinidad," with Nigel Bruce.

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